



SHONEN KNIFE - Osaka Ramones (*Good Charamel*) Well, this is odd even when it comes to oddities! To celebrate SHONEN KNIFE's 30th year, they've recorded an album covering 13 songs by, arguably, their ultimate influence - THE RAMONES. It's a tribute that could easily fall flat, but these gals outta Japan have an intrinsic understanding of what made these songs so fucking great in the first place - and that's adrenalised Rock 'n' Roll delivered with verve, fun and dedication. While they have added a BLONDIE-esque New Wave twist to these songs, they have not mucked around with the arrangement or sanitised the visceral energy the classic tunes. Interestingly also, I thought it was the mid-era RAMONES songs that the band covered the best; highlights for me were 'She's The One', 'The KKK Took My Baby Away', 'We Want The Airwaves' and, of the earlier tunes, 'Pinhead'. This isn't ironic, or arty - this is Rock 'n' Roll and these already-classic songs have been given a new life - and one the bruddas would've approved of greatly! Gabba gabba,,,, (30.04.12)

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